

The 2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Jobs Accelerator) is a coordinated inter-agency effort designed to spur job creation and economic growth in regions across the country. In 2011 the \$37 million multi-agency competition supported the advancement of 20 high-growth, regional industry clusters. Investments from three federal agencies and technical assistance from 13 additional agencies are promoting development in areas such as advanced manufacturing, informational technology, aerospace, and clean technology in regions in 21 states. The 20 winning projects are expected to create more than 4,800 jobs and 300 new businesses, as well as retain another 2,400 jobs and train approximately 4,000 workers for careers in high-growth industries, according to grantee estimates. The 2011 Jobs Accelerator funding agencies include the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

The winning projects of the 2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge are:

- Rockford, Ill.: Rockford Area Aerospace Cluster
- Southeast Michigan: Southeast Michigan-Advanced Energy Storage Systems Initiative
- Pittsburgh, Pa.: Southwestern Pennsylvania Revitalization
- Northeast Ohio: Northeast Ohio Speed-to-Market Accelerator
- Florida: Space Coast Clean Energy Jobs Accelerator
- Knoxville and Oak Ridge, Tenn.: Advanced Composites Employment Accelerator
- Milwaukee, Wis.: Milwaukee Regional Water Accelerator Project
- Missouri and Kansas: KC Regional Jobs Accelerator
- Atlanta, Ga: Atlanta Health Information Technology Cluster
- Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma: The ARK: Acceleration, Resources, Knowledge
- St. Louis, Mo.: St. Louis Bioscience Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Project
- Oregon and Washington: Portland Regional Clean Tech Advance Initiative
- San Diego, Calif.: San Diego-Imperial Valley Renewable Energy Generation Training and Demonstration Center
- Puget Sound, Wash.: Washington Interactive Media Accelerator
- Hudson Valley, N.Y.: New York Renewable Energy Cluster
- Finger Lakes, N.Y.: Finger Lakes Food Processing Cluster Initiative
- Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota: Upper Missouri Tribal Environmental Risk Mitigation
- South Central Kansas: Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement
- Northeast, Minn.: Minnesota's Mining Cluster
- Northern Maine: GreenME

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Descriptions

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Pittsburgh Central Keystone Innovation Zone (EDA); Hill House Association (ETA); University of Pittsburgh (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,959,395
Project Name:	Southwestern Pennsylvania Urban Revitalization
Identified Region:	Pittsburgh, PA: Allegheny County; Armstrong County; Beaver County; Butler County; Fayette County; Greene County; Indiana County; Lawrence County; Washington County; and Westmoreland County
Identified Cluster:	Energy; Health Care
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>This program is an effort to take existing growth clusters in the City of Pittsburgh and ensure that all residents benefit from the growth of these clusters. This is accomplished by focusing program activities on the underserved communities that have, to date, not benefited from the resurgence of Pittsburgh through its notable clusters. The objectives of this program are to accelerate the formation of new high-growth businesses and growth of existing businesses; accelerate the creation of high-wage jobs; advance the commercialization of research, including federally-funded research; support the deployment of new processes, new technologies, and new products to grow sales and create jobs; enhance the capacity of small businesses in the cluster, including small and disadvantaged businesses; increase exports and business interaction with international buyers and suppliers; develop the skilled workforce needed to support growing clusters; and ensure diverse workforce participation in clusters through outreach, training, and creation of career pathways.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Activities include promoting entrepreneurship in a severely underserved area, spurring community development, job creation, and wealth generation for some of the poorest residents of the Pittsburgh region - primarily African American individuals. By expanding the already successful energy and healthcare clusters and encouraging supply-chain support businesses, the broad-based consortium outlined above will be able to sustain and advance the clusters while creating an array of opportunities for the residents of the targeted community. All of the EDA-funded activities support these objectives.</p> <p>ETA: Activities include targeted outreach and recruitment; placement into short-term and long-term training courses, designed to address single or comprehensive skill sets that prepares individuals for mid-level positions and corresponding education benchmarks. This training will also offer state-wide and nationally recognized healthcare and energy certifications, where applicable.</p> <p>Trainings will include those related to: nursing, allied health, emergency and paramedic medicine, public safety, engineering, weatherization, Marcellus Shale drilling, phlebotomy, welding and other auxiliary programs that feed into the energy industry, home and personal health care, mechatronics, leadership, computer programming (including medical coding and billing</p>

	<p>programs), health information technology, and green energy.</p> <p>SBA: This project will be centered within the Hill District, Pittsburgh’s interconnected African American community, providing individualized business management consulting and educational programs to emerging and existing business owners. These services and programs will be offered by the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence and the Duquesne Small Business Development Center. The goal is to foster entrepreneurship, attract investment and strengthen existing companies.</p>
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2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Roane State Community College (RSCC)
Total Funding:	\$1,627,185
Project Name:	Advanced Composites Employment (ACE) Accelerator
Identified Region:	Knoxville and Oak Ridge, TN: Fentress County, Scott County, Campbell County, Claiborne County, Cumberland County, Morgan County, Anderson County, Union County, Grainger County, Hamble County, Roane County, Loudon County, Monroe County, Blount County, Knox County, Sevier County, Jefferson County, Cocke County
Identified Cluster:	Advanced Composites with Focus on Low-Cost Carbon Fiber Technology
Project Description and Objectives:	The ACE Partnership aims to accelerate the formation of new high-growth businesses and growth of existing business; accelerate the creation of high-wage jobs; advance the commercialization of research including Federally-funded research; support the deployment of new processes, new technologies, and new products to grow sales and create jobs; develop the skilled workforce needed to support growing clusters; and ensure diverse workforce participation in clusters through outreach, training and the creation of career pathways.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Activities include identifying gaps in the supply chain, matching existing companies to fill the gaps, seeking opportunities for incorporating companies into the cluster, identifying opportunities for technology and cluster expansion, developing networking groups and opportunities, growing Carbon Fiber Consortium, components to reach out to the underserved, conducting industry sponsored events to promote composite opportunities, provide technical assistance for small/medium manufacturers and technology-based companies, and providing a variety of commercialization activities.</p> <p>ETA: Activities will be centered around developing an Associate of Applied Science degree program to meet the mid-to-high level technician worker needs of industries within the identified cluster. This training will be conducted in career pathways that lead to jobs for which employers currently pay H-1B visa fees to employ skilled employees. Of the 2,996 H-1B visas issued in Tennessee in 2010, 483 were in the ACE region and 446 were in career pathways related to the training proposed by ACE. Activities will be all encompassing from recruitment of students, training, placement, employment, and retention in employment. The ACE Advisory Board and subject matter experts will play key roles in developing training, assisting with placement and more.</p> <p>SBA: Activities will include the identification of technologies, commercialization and market opportunities within the cluster and pairing them with potential owners/managers; Accelerate the development of high-growth potential small businesses targeting underserved geographic areas and individuals; Educating and reaching out to financial institutions and small businesses about SBA loan guarantees; Utilizing the mobile computer lab and Roane State Community College campuses to deliver training in rural areas; and Conduct basic business development training.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (EDA, SBA); Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (ETA)
Total Funding:	\$1,650,000
Project Name:	Milwaukee Regional Water Accelerator Project
Identified Region:	Milwaukee, WI: Kenosha County, Milwaukee County, Ozaukee County, Racine County, Walworth County, Washington County, Waukesha County
Identified Cluster:	Water
Project Description and Objectives:	The overarching strategy is to foster business partnerships among large and small companies with an eye toward international growth, build the next generation of talent needed to continue advancing the cluster, and connect regional water businesses to global markets to export products and services. The broad vision for the project will be to accelerate Milwaukee's emerging position as a globally-recognized water industry hub.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Operations, staffing and programming for the Water Research and Business Accelerator Center, creating global connections building an international presence for the Milwaukee water industry cluster, expand the Water Council's role as business "matchmaker" to serve global markets, and commercialization of research to create and grow business.</p> <p>ETA: Work with project partners, to ensure that coordination of activities, such as workforce development and the water career pathway initiative, address employer needs by facilitating articulation agreements between post-secondary institutions; create a cadre of employees with technical skills which will enhance worker earning potential and employer production capacity; and connect low-income, at-risk populations to the water cluster through workforce development partners with activities such as training, internships, and career fairs.</p> <p>SBA: Market research to identify 7(j) eligible businesses that may benefit from a broader inclusion in the water cluster, marketing and outreach to make small businesses aware of the services offered under the grant. Provide business counseling, training and technical assistance in the area of technology transfer and SBIR/STTR grant opportunities.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation (EDA); Full Employment Council, Inc. (ETA); University of Missouri Curators on behalf of the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) Innovations Center KCSOURCELINK (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,891,338
Project Name:	KC Regional Jobs Accelerator
Identified Region:	Greater Kansas City (MO and KS) area including MO counties: Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, Ray; and KS Counties: Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Wyandotte
Identified Cluster:	Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology
Project Description and Objectives:	The program will support employers looking for employees with stronger technical skills by providing unemployed and incumbent workers with training to secure positions now held by persons with H-1B visas. The program will support taking university and corporate research to commercial application and assist small businesses in establishing business operations from those applications. The program will help small businesses grow and add employees by connecting them to larger companies to meet supply chain requirements and initiating export activity.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Activities include identifying game-changing technologies and processes putting them in the hands of small businesses and talented entrepreneurs resulting in new projects and businesses; integrating university, laboratory and industry research into the existing entrepreneurial ecosystem; creating a central clearinghouse for regional cluster and commercialization information.</p> <p>ETA: The Full Employment Council will partner with the Workforce Partnership, the three community college systems and other training institutions to prepare incumbent workers and new employees to meet the skill requirements of advanced manufacturing and IT employers. Activities include: Recruitment; Assessments; On-the-Job (OJT) Training; Scholarships; Tuition for Special Programs; Job Development; and Career Pathway Development.</p> <p>SBA: Work to support small business development by assisting advanced manufacturing and IT businesses, including 7(j) eligible businesses, to commercialize research-creating business opportunities, help businesses become established, and help those companies become connected to large corporations as supply chain operations.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Georgia Tech Research Corporation
Total Funding:	\$1,650,000
Project Name:	Atlanta Health Information Technology Cluster
Identified Region:	State of Georgia
Identified Cluster:	Health Information Technology
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>The three agency funding sources will synergistically address the statewide ecosystem gaps that exist between the development and commercialization of new health information technologies (HIT), the diffusion of those technologies into the dispersed healthcare sector, and the training and deployment of a job-ready workforce able to utilize or support disruptive HIT in patient-centric, community-based care. The overarching goal of the project is to develop innovation to stimulate jobs in distressed areas of the state, train veteran and chronically unemployed workers to fill the numerous, open HIT positions, and support SBA 7(j) companies with resource connections, as well as trained workers.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: An Interoperability Lab (IOL) will provide support and testing for HIT product developments, and ensure that new technologies comply with national standards. The IOL also will serve as a venue for public-private partnerships where HIT innovations will stimulate new business ventures, new jobs, and many opportunities for a distressed region.</p> <p>ETA: Gwinnett Technical College will develop a one-year, work-ready HIT certificate program for veterans and chronically unemployed individuals. The objective is to provide industry-recognized training that leads to employment in software development, sales and customer service, as well as medical billing and coding, and computer networking positions within healthcare organizations.</p> <p>SBA: Georgia Tech will identify, provide technical and management assistance, and engage the participants of 7(j) eligible small businesses. The program includes partnering with Georgia Tech's Minority Business Development Agency, SBDC, SCORE, WBC, Georgia Tech Procurement Assistance Center (GTPAC), and Procurement Assistance Centers. This project will match small businesses with larger ones to provide mentoring and identify B2B opportunities. The Atlanta Development Authority will coordinate financing.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Winrock International (EDA,SBA); Northwest Arkansas Community College (ETA)
Total Funding:	\$2,150,000
Project Name:	Launching the ARK: Acceleration, Resources, Knowledge
Identified Region:	AR counties: Washington, Benton, Madison; MO county: McDonald; and OK counties: Adair, Delaware
Identified Cluster:	Information Technology
Project Description and Objectives:	Winrock International, University of Arkansas, and Northwest Arkansas Community college is launching ARK (Acceleration, Resources, and Knowledge) to develop and grow new technology startup companies that will provide innovative ideas, processes, and products to the existing industry clusters. The grantee will establish an annual information technology startup “boot camp” to draw new startup companies from the region and nationally to participate in an intense mentoring and commercialization process with the goal of developing IT companies and jobs that will support the retail, transportation and logistics, and food processing industries. The education and training activities will ensure a workforce educated in the skill sets needed for IT growth along with job placement support services.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Will operate the ARK program and assist in the coordination of the various public, private, and university programming that exists to support new entrepreneurial development and job growth in this region, such as an annual “boot camp” for entrepreneurs.</p> <p>ETA: Funding will be targeted to assist Northwest Arkansas Community College as it develops new and expanded programs in information technology to provide education and training activities in the skills sets needed by the cluster workforce, along with job placement support services.</p> <p>SBA: The Cluster will provide opportunities for disadvantaged businesses to participate in the ARK “boot camp” processes. The camp provides intensive mentorship and training to develop innovations matching the IT needs of the region. Top graduates will be selected to pitch their innovations for next round funding from venture and angel investor community.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Space Florida
Total Funding:	\$2,148,198
Project Name:	Clean Energy Jobs Accelerator (CEJA)
Identified Region:	East Central Florida: Brevard County, Orange County, Seminole County, Volusia County
Identified Cluster:	Clean Energy
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>The Space Coast Clean Energy Jobs Accelerator (CEJA) is a comprehensive and coordinated project designed to elevate, integrate and accelerate the development of the Space Coast Clean Energy Cluster that has emerged in East Central Florida through the extension of the workforce, industry and innovation capabilities in the region's mature aerospace cluster. Project objectives are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Identify capabilities, commercialization gaps and cluster opportunities. Develop a technology assistance program using existing cluster assets, state and federal organizations, and universities. (2) Work with project partners and Kennedy Space Center/NASA to develop a center that will sponsor, support, and accelerate the commercialization of emerging clean energy products and technologies. (3) Ascertain immediate and projected hiring needs on an ongoing basis. Recruit displaced employees exiting the space industry and other businesses to build employability skills through Career Re-entry Training. (4) Provide education, training and job placement assistance to support career transitions to clean energy occupations. (5) Accelerate the formation of clean energy startup companies. Stabilize and strengthen existing (two+ years) small, clean energy businesses.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: In partnership with the Space Coast Energy Consortium, Space Florida will work to comprehensively catalog the relevant regional industry and technology capabilities; create collaborative clean energy support programs and services; and link regional businesses and organizations with local, state and national financial and technical resources through the formation of a sustainable "One-Stop" Connector program. Also, a new Space to Energy Regional Innovation Center will accelerate the commercialization of new energy technologies and help to forge partnerships between industry developers and the space center's energy-related technical facilities and expertise.</p> <p>ETA: Brevard Workforce will ensure that specific hiring needs of expanding enterprises are understood, that potential employees with the requisite skills are connected to businesses, and that the needed skill sets and workforce capabilities are addressed through targeted training opportunities.</p> <p>SBA: The Technological Research Development Authority (TRDA), a business support organization, will assist new small businesses and strengthen existing small businesses through mentoring in a range of topics related to starting and successfully managing businesses. The TRDA, in partnership with SBDC, WBC's and SCORE, will also provide information about building networks and partnerships, government contracting strategies, and applying for grant</p>

	opportunities including the Small Business Innovation Research programs.
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Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Economic Council of St. Louis (EDA); St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (ETA); St. Louis Minority Supplier Development Council (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,825,779
Project Name:	St. Louis Bioscience Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Project
Identified Region:	St. Louis City and County
Identified Cluster:	Bioscience
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>This collaborative effort to accelerate the growth of the bioscience cluster in the St. Louis region will spur new company and associated new job creation, and the engagement of individuals and companies underrepresented in the bioscience cluster. The co-applicants, representing St. Louis' EDA, ETA and SBA entities, will elevate the cluster to the next level of expansion, enhancing the region's global competitive position in biosciences, and contributing to the future growth of the regional economy from advanced, technology-based companies that are replacing shuttered manufacturing plants. Since the St. Louis region possesses world-class assets in both medical and plant sciences, the successful execution of the proposal is designed to create high-growth enterprises and high-wage jobs in one of the nation's fastest growing industries. In addition to top research medical schools and independent research institutes, the region also has several large, mature biosciences corporations including concentrations of non-profit and corporate plant science research.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Following success bringing early-stage technologies that have not been commercialized into the pipeline, funding will address identified gaps and challenges, including access to a skilled workforce of experienced entrepreneurs that are needed to enable companies to grow. Through entrepreneur capacity-building and worker skills training, the project will further a <i>grow-our-own</i> strategy, increasing the number and accelerating the development of successful bioscience companies creating high-wage jobs.</p> <p>ETA: To benefit historically underrepresented groups, the project will work with the St. Louis Agency for Training and Employment, the city's workforce investment board, and the county's workforce development division to provide on-the-job-training for individuals hired by bioscience start-ups as well as established bioscience companies.</p> <p>SBA: The St. Louis Minority Suppliers Development Council (MSDC) will coordinate services for eligible 7(j) small businesses to include business training and counseling, commercialization of Research and Development (R&D), export readiness, and exposure to the bioscience industry. The MSDC will work with cluster partners to expose business owners and potential entrepreneurs to business opportunities in the biosciences and prepare them to be successful suppliers in this field. MSDC will work with a number of strategic partners in this effort.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute (EDA); Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (ETA); University of Minnesota Center for Economic Development (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,948,985
Project Name:	Minnesota's Mining Cluster – The Next Generation of Innovation and Diversification to Grow America
Identified Region:	Aitkin County, Carlton County, Cook County, Crow Wing County, Itasca County, Koochiching County, Lake County, St. Louis County
Identified Cluster:	Energy
Project Description and Objectives:	The overall project will focus on several major objectives including mineral development through applied research and new value-added product diversification and associated business development focused on mining related by-products and under-utilized low-grade materials. The project will also address further development and acceleration of education programming and training to help youth, incumbent workers, and unemployed or disadvantaged workers take advantage of new employment opportunities in this growing cluster.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: The project will invest EDA funding with the University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) supporting market development of waste rock aggregate and other co-products and the diversification of value-added mining opportunities, both ferrous and non-ferrous, particularly rare and precious metals.</p> <p>ETA: Funding will be channeled to the Northeast Higher Education District (NHED) to support the acceleration of the high school-based Applied Learning Initiative and to help enroll qualified students, incumbent and disadvantaged workers into the new Iron Range Engineering Program.</p> <p>SBA: The UMD Center for Economic Development (CED) will provide strategies to businesses owned by women, minorities, veterans, service-disabled veterans, and tribes on topics including feasibility analysis, business planning, start-up, stabilization, exporting issues, loan packaging, cash-flow analysis, marketing, technology issues, expansion, innovation and intellectual property. In partnership with the NRRI, SBA will assist businesses to develop new products and bring those products to market.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	City of Portland (EDA); Worksystems Inc. (ETA); Oregon Microenterprise Network (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$2,150,000
Project Name:	Clean Tech Advance Initiative (CTA)
Identified Region:	Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA: OR Counties; Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington; WA Counties: Cowlitz, Clark
Identified Cluster:	Clean Tech
Project Description and Objectives:	The CTA initiative seeks to further integrate two of the metropolitan region's prominent industry clusters to accelerate clean technology innovation and production to meet the growing global demand. Economic development, workforce and small business partners in Oregon and southwest Washington have established three core elements of the Jobs Innovation Accelerator Challenge (JIAC) for the clean technology cluster over the last decade. The proposed Clean Tech Advance initiative will amplify these efforts by connecting, leveraging and multiplying local, regional and national resources to connect clean technology (clean tech) innovations with manufacturing to increase regions' competitive advantage in the global marketplace.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: EDA-funded activities will enhance the region's ability to develop new clean tech products and services by helping innovative clean tech companies secure private investment, new revenues, and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants.</p> <p>ETA: ETA-funded activities will complement the work of CTA partners by encouraging alignment of existing local advanced manufacturers with the clean tech supply chain through two approaches: 1) pipeline preparation and 2) leadership training. The project will also connect academic research and innovation to private sector entrepreneurship with proven workforce development strategies to prepare workers for the economic transformation needed to retain our nations' global competitiveness. Using the above strategies, this program will: 1) infuse the local advanced manufacturing industry with the middle-to high-skilled workers demanded by both current growth and the accelerated growth projected to follow the regional clean tech alignment that will be generated by grant activities; and, 2) position regional advanced manufacturing businesses to enter the clean tech supply chain through the adoption and implementation of progressive business practices and quality assurance standards required by the clean tech industry.</p> <p>SBA: The Oregon Microenterprise Network, the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and the Portland Community College Small Business Development Center will deploy tools and programs specifically developed to assist SBA 7(j) defined businesses. The partnership will provide regional outreach for 7(j) companies and provide technical services in business administration, marketing, sales, budget, location, and finance.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	NextEnergy Center (EDA); Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board (ETA); Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$2,125,745
Project Name:	Southeast Michigan Advanced Energy Storage Systems Initiative
Identified Region:	Detroit, MI: Wayne County, Oakland County, Macomb County, Washtenaw County, Livingston County
Identified Cluster:	Advanced Energy Storage Systems (AESS)
Project Description and Objectives:	This project leverages critical momentum connected to Southeast Michigan's greatest core competencies and strengths, including a racially diverse population. After years of spiraling decline, the AESS cluster has benefitted from substantial investment and poses tremendous job-creation opportunity to reposition Southeast Michigan once again as a global innovation leader.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Grow capacity of the Michigan Academy for Green Mobility Alliance (MAGMA) to the region's AESS-related economic development needs, including value chain analysis, industry transition and new venture and technology development.</p> <p>ETA: Deliver AESS-related and MAGMA-endorsed training courses connected to engineering and technician career pathways, convert several existing education and training courses from traditional classroom settings to a short-course format.</p> <p>SBA: Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council (MMSDC) will conduct workshops where participants learn about contract opportunities, how to access capital, and how to gain exposure and awareness of their firms' capabilities. Matchmaking events between minority suppliers and AESS procurement specialists will be coordinated. Additionally, the MMSDC will work with the Southeast Michigan's network of Small Business and Technology Development Centers which will provide counseling to improve business performance in finance, marketing, technology commercialization, investor readiness, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), and Small Business and Technology Transfer (STTR) submissions.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	San Diego State University (SDSU) Research Foundation
Total Funding:	\$1,671,600
Project Name:	Renewable Energy Generation Training and Demonstration Center
Identified Region:	San Diego, CA including Imperial County
Identified Cluster:	Renewable Energy
Project Description and Objectives:	Collaborate to establish a “mega-region” that will facilitate the nurturing of an emerging industry cluster for Imperial Valley. To link the abundant intellectual capital, technology commercialization resources and vibrant renewable energy cluster resources currently present in the San Diego region with the physical infrastructure, land, and the vast potential of renewable energy production found in the Imperial Valley. The project offers a special opportunity to leverage a combination of experience, academic integrity, research facilities and natural resources to create a global impact on the development, demonstration, deployment and workforce training for renewable energy technologies.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Establish a commercial-scale proof of concept center to perform technology demonstrations, supported by multifaceted commercialization support services.</p> <p>ETA: Focus on individuals who have lost their jobs or that are threatened to lose their jobs due to foreign trade. Allow public and industry access to the training and certification options through SDSU IV, IVC and SDSU’s College of Extended Studies to offer customized training and program e-learning components and simulators.</p> <p>SBA: Provide small business development support and services such as training, mentoring, consulting, technology transfer/commercialization, SBIR and export assistance to develop, produce and fast-track deployment of new systems and technologies for the Imperial Valley in the area of renewable energy generation.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	enterpriseSeattle
Total Funding:	\$1,229,000
Project Name:	Washington Interactive Media Accelerator (WIMA)
Identified Region:	Seattle, WA including King County, Snohomish County, Pierce county, Kitsap County
Identified Cluster:	Interactive Media
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>Washington State and the Puget Sound region have emerged as a major center for the interactive media industry. This industry includes technology and content related to simulations, interactive learning and entertainment, social applications, web applications, and platform technology. This industry is proven to be extremely entrepreneurial, but has little infrastructure or support services to assist new startups, to provide internships and other professional training opportunities, to collaborate on improved curriculum development and mentoring, or to provide both a common physical space and a virtual portal that will foster and maintain new businesses and potential employees. To address these and other related needs, we propose to develop the Washington Interactive Media Accelerator (WIMA). The WIMA is an innovative project pilot bringing together industry, education, and economic development under one collaborative effort and could be duplicated in other regions. It will be the central focus for industry support, and will operate a number of programs and provide needed services.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Creation and operation of WIMA; creation and operation of the Entrepreneurship Outreach and Education Center; creation of the Executive-in-Residence Program; develop and maintain cluster networking opportunities; management and coordination of international trade missions; commission economic impact studies and cluster analysis; and, creation and operation of the Interactive Media Education and Internship Program.</p> <p>ETA: Creation and operation of the Interactive Media Education and Internship Program; creation of a Regional Job Portal; development of an internship plan for workers to enter the industry; coordination and operation of the Interactive Media Education Alliance; creation and administration of new scholarships; and creation of a Work Skills Center.</p> <p>SBA: Will create an Entrepreneur Outreach & Education Center (EOEC). The incubator will provide a 1-year mentoring program for six start-ups. Two of six start-ups will be minority- or women-owned. Workshops will be conducted for 20 new small businesses of which 4 will be minority-owned and 20% of the companies selected for the incubator will be owned or founded by historically under-represented groups. The center will foster relationships between its clients and local venture capitalist and angel investors.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Rochester Institute of Technology, Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies (RIT-CIMS)
Total Funding:	\$1,547,470
Project Name:	Finger Lakes Food Processing Cluster Initiative
Identified Region:	Genesee County, Livingston County, Monroe County, Ontario County, Orleans County, Seneca County, Wayne County, Wyoming County, Yates County
Identified Cluster:	Food Processing Cluster
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>The Finger Lakes Food Processing Cluster Initiative will provide the structure and resources to support a successful, sustainable, robust Food Processing Cluster in the Finger Lakes region of New York State by advancing innovative technologies and providing training to use those technologies, while being mindful of the importance of sustainability. To this end, RIT-CIMS will partner with many regional resources such as RIT's Golisano Institute for Sustainability, the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute, Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park, Monroe Community College, Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, food processing cluster trade organizations and businesses, and small business development and workforce investment agencies. To take advantage of the synergies of a true cluster approach, RIT-CIMS will facilitate cluster unification and planning and will provide critical economic and environmental information, technical and business assistance to existing and developing companies, necessary training for the local labor force to fill the gap between current workforce skills and industry needs; targeted outreach to small disadvantaged businesses; and support research to advance the cluster for the future.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Activities will focus on providing technical assistance to companies such as material analysis, durability testing, and feasibility studies. This technical assistance will focus on process improvements using a Lean, Energy, and Environment approach, feasibility studies to advance innovative product and process technologies, and research and development to further advance new knowledge benefiting the cluster.</p> <p>ETA: Develop the skilled workforce needed to support growing clusters, including occupations traditionally filled with H1-B workers; Ensure diverse workforce participation in clusters through outreach, training and the creation of career pathways.</p> <p>SBA: Provide outreach and engage disadvantaged small business owners and start-ups into the cluster network. Connect small businesses with the clusters incubators and/or specific counseling and training program. Emphasis will be on an increase in technology/product transfer from laboratory to marketplace; an increase in adoption of new technologies or processes; strengthened supply chains; new patent applications; increased venture capital financing; and market expansion.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	United Tribes Technical College (UTTC)
Total Funding:	\$1,716,475
Project Name:	Upper Missouri Tribal Environmental Risk Mitigation (UM-TERM) Project
Identified Region:	MT, ND and SD Reservations: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Blackfeet Nation; Rocky Boy; Fort Belknap Indian Community; Fort Peck Indian Community; Crow Reservation; Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation; Fort Berthold Reservation; Turtle Mountain Reservation; Spirit Lake Reservation; Standing Rock Reservation; Cheyenne River Reservation; Lake Traverse Reservation (Sisseton-Wahpeton); Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Reservation; Yankton; Crow Creek Indian Reservation; Lower Brule Reservation; Rosebud Indian Reservation; Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
Identified Cluster:	Environmental Risk Mitigation
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>The UM-TERM project is designed to meet the region's need for qualified environmental technicians and other professionals with the expertise to enable tribal entities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage water resources and protect water rights; • Manage land resources including mineral deposits and wildlife; and, • Mitigate environmental risk and distress in tribal areas of the upper Missouri River basin. <p>Tribal planners will integrate federal funding resources to support a network that is designed to accelerate business development opportunities for Native Americans and reduce unemployment in economically distressed reservation areas.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: By developing a formal network including project participants, federal, state, local, and tribal governmental agencies, and private businesses representing environmental fields, funding will foster the economic conditions needed to support both jobs and business development in natural resources.</p> <p>ETA: Within a coalition, Tribal Colleges and Universities will develop a common core of courses required for Associate Degree programs related to environmental risk mitigation. Additionally, a series of short-term certificate programs, based on currently identified demand, will be designed for incumbent workers and for participants interested in building more marketable and specialized skill sets.</p> <p>SBA: Will coordinate entrepreneurial opportunities in the environmental sciences including the Native American Business Network's <i>Indianpreneurship</i> seminar—a culturally relevant program for Native entrepreneurs who want to start their own business. Provide counselors to support writing of business plans specifically for businesses run on reservations. Additionally, provide one-on-one mentors for <i>Indianpreneurship</i> participants to help connect cluster members with the local Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), and to assist in starting new businesses.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Northern Illinois University (EDA; ETA) Rockford Area Strategic Initiatives (EIGERlab) (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,769,987
Project Name:	Rockford Area Aerospace Cluster Jobs and Innovation Accelerator
Identified Region:	Rockford, IL including Boone County, Winnebago County
Identified Cluster:	Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN)
Project Description and Objectives:	This project will enable the rapid acceleration of the Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN) to develop the Rockford MSA workforce capacity and the collaboration infrastructure necessary to meet more quickly the dramatic aerospace growth anticipated for the next two decades. This project seeks to first grow the market for the Rockford MSA aerospace cluster from regional to a national and international basis. Second, increase technical knowledge to accelerate the advancement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through technology transfer and meet the growing needs of Primes and tier-on aerospace companies. Third, promote access to a qualified workforce, including new starts, and nurture disadvantaged populations through STEM education, training and internships.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Accelerate efforts in three areas. 1) Identify Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN) research and technology projects with potential for commercialization; 2) Accelerate the use of small and medium sized enterprise (SME) barriers to Engineer in Residence (EIR) programs for focused business development projects; and 3) Develop a sustainable post-high school education infrastructure.</p> <p>ETA: Accelerate training and education needs on several levels. 1) Provide a seamless, cost effective undergraduate matriculation from a local two-year college to a regional four year university; 2) Promote the inclusion of under-represented undergraduate student recruitment and mentoring; and 3) Provide cost and time effective opportunities for indigent employees in the aerospace cluster to seamlessly obtain continuing education.</p> <p>SBA: Target underrepresented and economic/socially disadvantaged small businesses. Provide a multi-session business “boot camp” program with focus on improving core competencies, financial planning, and target marketing. Will provide aerospace consultants to connect suppliers and customers. Will use SBTDC, SBDC, ITC, PTAC and other programs to assist in strategic planning, GAP analysis and other business services. Cluster members will provide reduced rate CAD design capabilities to targeted aerospace companies. These services will be utilized to design, analyze and prototype new innovative products.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Wichita State University
Total Funding:	\$1,993,420
Project Name:	Center for Innovation and Enterprise Engagement
Identified Region:	South Central Kansas including Butler County, Cowley County, Harper County, Harvey County, Kingman County, Marion County, McPherson County, Reno County, Sedgwick County, Sumner County
Identified Cluster:	Advanced materials
Project Description and Objectives:	The following complementary strategies will equip south central Kansas manufacturers with the resources and the workforce to diversify the regional economy while maintaining the manufacturing base and position the regional advanced manufacturing clusters for future growth, stability and global competitiveness. <i>Innovation Accelerator</i> will provide a forum for industry collaboration and provide assistance to accelerate development of innovative, cost-effective, sustainable, next-generation, composites and advanced materials, processes, repair technologies and products. <i>Career Accelerator</i> will expand workforce training from students to entry-level workers and experienced engineers in order to equip and raise the skill level of a premier composite technicians' workforce who will be qualified to obtain or upgrade employment in a variety of high-growth industries. <i>Enterprise Accelerator</i> will engage historically underrepresented and excluded communities in support of identifying, planning and developing new business opportunities.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Industry Roundtable, Competitive Faculty/Business Fellowships, Competitive Innovation/Technology Accelerator including technical assistance, feasibility studies, planning activities, technology or process development, cluster networking, market expansion.</p> <p>ETA: Articulation agreement development and implementation for New Engineering Technology Degree, Bridge Program to promote success of new engineering and engineering technology students, Online composites course development, Scholarships and work experience, internships, and co-ops.</p> <p>SBA: Expand the CIEE advanced Manufacturing Industry Roundtable and Collaborative Partner Technical and Management-Assistance Programs to reach underserved market. Partner with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to target businesses for training, counseling, technology transfer, commercialization of existing research and development counseling, export readiness counseling and other relevant small business services. A team will focus on engagement and integration of small businesses eligible for 7(j) assistance. These efforts will be integrated in a comprehensive plan of training and economic development to include disadvantaged communities working with SBA's Small Business Development Center resource partners.</p>

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Northern Maine Development Commission
Total Funding:	\$1,928,225
Project Name:	GreenME
Identified Region:	Northeastern ME including Aroostook County, Washington County
Identified Cluster:	Renewable Energy Industry Cluster (REIC)
Project Description and Objectives:	<p>The REIC consists of representatives from approximately 55 businesses that employ over 500 people located throughout the State of Maine with the majority from the region. These businesses produce energy extracted or captured from on-going natural processes, generated and regenerated naturally. The project objective is to transition 9,000 residential units and 20 commercial facilities to primary or supplemental wood biomass fuel in four years. This will result in 260 direct industry cluster jobs and 196 indirect and induced jobs in the regional economy. To implement this renewable energy strategy will require a comprehensive and targeted workforce development strategy to train residential and commercial heating installers.</p>
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: Develop a grass pellet boiler for small commercial and residential heating purposes, Develop a Regional Innovation Strategic Plan and a Regional Venture Development Organization plan for the REIC. Expansion of the Renewable Energy Industry Cluster (REIC) in the Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District (AWEDD) through additional mapping of indigenous assets and development of expanded leadership teams by the attraction and integration of new partners. Feasibility of commercialization of replacement wood pellet burner for fuel oil burner in existing heating systems. Evaluation of newer growth small diameter trees as feedstock for expanded production of industrial grade wood pellets and/or wood chips for utilization in heating and power applications; primarily geared for export to European market. Entrepreneur business development to stabilize and expand forest harvesting operations through improved technical and business practices.</p> <p>ETA: ETA funds will be used to train workers in the following high demand occupations: mechanical engineers, biological technicians, electrical engineers, and engineering managers.</p> <p>SBA: Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) will oversee activity development. NMDC will leverage the expertise of the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Procurement and Technical Assistance Center, NMDC's Business Finance Division, the Maine Small Business Development Center, Maine International Trade Association, and the Maine Technology Institute to provide business assistance to low and moderate income business owners, clients located in high poverty/high unemployment areas, 8(a) status and HUB zones. Service will include: training sessions in entrepreneurship, one-on-one business technical assistance and coordination of regional peer-to-peer networking groups providing start-ups with strategies for loan proposal development and then, access to financing organizations.</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	The Solar Energy Consortium (EDA) Orange County Community College (SUNY Orange) (ETA) Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows, Inc. (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$1,950,000
Project Name:	New York Renewable Energy Cluster (NYREC)
Identified Region:	City of Newburgh, NY including Ulster County, Dutchess County, Rockland County, Orange County, Sullivan County, Columbia County, Greene County, Putnam County
Identified Cluster:	Renewable Energy (Solar)
Project Description and Objectives:	The Accelerator grant seeks to expand the role of industry clusters in job creation; encourage the growth of small businesses, especially those headed by minorities, women and disadvantaged owners; and expand training opportunities so that U.S. workers can access pathways to higher-skill jobs. Newburgh, a city of 28,000 and one of New York State's poorest localities, is the primary location for this project. The New York Renewable Energy Cluster's strategic response targets the Accelerator grant's three challenges with a unified approach to cluster development, small business origination and support and workforce training.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: EDA funding will be used to establish cluster development mechanisms intended to become permanent features of NYREC's long-term development strategy. Activities will focus on business support services to start-ups, including market research, site analysis, and access to capital.</p> <p>ETA: ETA funding will be used to increase course offerings at participating schools and tailor them more precisely to renewable energy cluster needs, thereby enhancing their value as job-generating training. These courses will continue to be offered and expanded through tuition payments and Department of Labor funding.</p> <p>SBA: The Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows (G.E.T.) will specifically target the underserved and disadvantaged population of Newburgh providing the following services: mentoring, business plan development, export-readiness, technology commercialization, international and domestic marketing, accounting and legal business structures, internet commerce and employee management. Client referrals will be made to renewable energy industry experts who can vet business ideas for feasibility. Clients at appropriate stages of business development will be connected with venture capital groups and alternative financing entities, and receive assistance with applications for state and federal R&D funding including federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR).</p>

2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Winners
Project Overviews

Grant Program:	2011 Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
Grantee Name:	Northeast Ohio Technology Coalition (NorTech) (EDA) Lorain County Community College (ETA) JumpStart Inc. (SBA)
Total Funding:	\$2,062,945
Project Name:	Northeast Ohio Speed-To-Market Accelerator (STMA)
Identified Region:	Cleveland and Akron, OH including Ashtabula County, Cuyahoga County, Geauga County, Lake County, Lorain County, Mahoning County, Medina County, Portage County, Stark County, Summit County, Trumbull County, Wayne County
Identified Clusters:	Energy; Flexible Electronics
Project Description and Objectives:	The Speed-To-Market Accelerator provides a step-by-step process to accelerate the speed-to-market for near-production or pilot-production prototypes. The primary objective of the STMA is to accelerate revenue generation which stimulates job creation. The STMA will also increase the global competitiveness of cluster companies, reduce their dependence on government grants, attract additional private capital, and attract students, incumbent workers, and the unemployed to STMA-sponsored educational programs that infuse both clusters with talent.
Brief Description of Activities to be Funded by Each Agency:	<p>EDA: The EDA funds Nortech, MAGNET and JumpStart to conduct a series of workshops to educate cluster members on speed-to-market and provide one-on-one assistance to help cluster members meet difficult challenges such as assessing key markets, engaging with commercialization partners and anchoring customers, increasing export revenue, and accessing capital.</p> <p>ETA: Lorain County Community College will utilize ETA funding to lead an extensive network of Northeast Ohio universities in early assessment of cluster workforce needs in time to develop and implement education/training programs.</p> <p>SBA: The JumpStart organization will be used to provide the following services: Outreach to identify and recruit 7(j) eligible businesses to join the STMA project and the flexible electronics cluster; management and technical assistance through one-on-one counseling; membership in its First Client Pilot Initiative; helping minority businesses secure initial sales to established companies; and to identify, pursue and secure new capital to grow businesses.</p>